

1 1. In a network that includes at least one notification source, at least one
2 notification sink, and a notification service that facilitates notification delivery, a method
3 for delivering notifications from a notification source to a notification sink, the method
4 comprising the following:

5 an act of a listener component of the notification service receiving a notification
6 from the notification source in a network format;

7 an act of the listener component translating the notification from the network
8 format into an internal processing format used by the notification service;

9 an act of determining a category of the notification;

10 an act of performing a set of one or more operations on the notification in its
11 internal processing format based on the category of the notification; and

12 an act of a delivery component of the notification service receiving the notification
13 for delivery to the notification sink.
14

15 2. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of a listener
16 component of the notification service receiving a notification from the notification source
17 in a network format comprises the following:

18 an act of the listener component of the notification service receiving a notification
19 from the notification source in the form of an HTTP post request.
20

21 3. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of a listener
22 component of the notification service receiving a notification from the notification source
23 in a network format comprises the following:

1 an act of the listener component of the notification service receiving a notification
2 from the notification source in the form of an XML document.

3
4 4. A method in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the act of a listener
5 component of the notification service receiving a notification from the notification source
6 in a network format comprises the following:

7 an act of the listener component of the notification service receiving a notification
8 from the notification source in the form of an XML document within the HTTP post
9 request.

10
11 5. A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the act of a listener
12 component of the notification service receiving a notification from the notification source
13 in a network format comprises the following:

14 an act of the listener component of the notification service receiving a notification
15 from the notification source in the form of an XML document within a SOAP request
16 within an HTTP post request.

17
18 6. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of the listener
19 component of the notification service receiving a notification from the notification source
20 in a network format comprises the following:

21 an act of the listener component of the notification service receiving a notification
22 from a wireless device.

23
24 7. A method in accordance with Claim 6, further comprising the following:

1 an act of delivering the notification to a mobile service provider.

2
3 8. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of the listener
4 component of the notification service receiving a notification from the notification source
5 comprises the following:

6 an act of the listener component of the notification service receiving a notification
7 from a mobile service provider.

8
9 9. A method in accordance with Claim 8, further comprising the following:
10 an act of delivering the notification to a wireless device.

11
12 10. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of determining a
13 category of the notification comprises the following:
14 an act of determining that the notification is an instant message.

15
16 11. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of determining a
17 category of the notification comprises the following:
18 an act of failing to detect an express category of the notification; and
19 an act of determining that the notification is of a default category based on the
20 failure to detect an express category.

21
22 12. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of determining a
23 category of the notification comprises the following:
24 an act of determining that the notification is a buddy list related notification.

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2 13. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of determining a
3 category of the notification comprises the following:

4 an act of determining that the notification is a news related notification.
5

6 14. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of determining a
7 category of the notification comprises the following:

8 an act of determining that the notification is a mobile-originated notification.
9

10 15. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of performing a set
11 of one or more operations on the notification in its internal processing format based on the
12 category of the notification comprises the following:

13 an act of determining whether to check that the notification should be muted.
14

15 16. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of performing a set
16 of one or more operations on the notification in its internal processing format based on the
17 category of the notification comprises the following:

18 an act of accessing a user profile associated with a sender or receiver of the
19 notification.
20

21 17. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of performing a set
22 of one or more operations on the notification in its internal processing format based on the
23 category of the notification comprises the following:

24 an act of authenticating.

1
2 18. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of performing a set
3 of one or more operations on the notification in its internal processing format based on the
4 category of the notification comprises the following:

5 an act of inserting an advertisement into the notification.
6

7 19. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of performing a set
8 of one or more operations on the notification in its internal processing format based on the
9 category of the notification comprises the following:

10 an act of formatting the notification for the destination device.
11

12 20. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of performing a set
13 of one or more operations on the notification in its internal processing format based on the
14 category of the notification comprises the following:

15 an act of determining whether the user has exceeded a message limit.
16

17 21. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the act of performing a set
18 of one or more operations on the notification in its internal processing format based on the
19 category of the notification comprises the following:

20 an act of determining the operations to perform based on the category.
21

22 22. A method in accordance with Claim 21, wherein the act of determining the
23 operations to perform based on the category comprises the following:

1 an act of referring to an XML document that lists operations to perform for at least
2 the category of the notification.

3
4 23. A method in accordance with Claim 21, further comprising the following:
5 an act of determining the order of operations to perform based on the category.
6

1 24. A computer program product for use in a network that includes at least one
2 notification source, at least one notification sink, and a notification service that facilitates
3 notification delivery, the computer program product for implementing a method for
4 delivering notifications from a notification source to a notification sink, the computer
5 program product comprising one or more computer-readable media have stored thereon the
6 following:

7 computer-executable instructions for a listener component detecting the receipt of a
8 notification from the notification source in a network format;

9 computer-executable instructions for translating the notification from the network
10 format into an internal processing format used by the notification service;

11 computer-executable instructions for determining a category of the notification;

12 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on
13 the notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification;
14 and

15 computer-executable instructions for a delivery component detecting the receiving
16 the receipt of the notification for delivery to the notification sink.

17
18 25. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the one
19 or more computer-readable media are physical storage media.

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21 26. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the one
22 or more computer-readable media further have stored thereon the following:

23 computer-executable instructions for delivering the notification to a wireless
24 device.

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2 27. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the
3 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on the
4 notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification
5 comprise the following:

6 computer-executable instructions for determining whether to check that the
7 notification should be muted.

8
9 28. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the
10 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on the
11 notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification
12 comprise the following:

13 computer-executable instructions for accessing a user profile associated with a
14 sender or receiver of the notification.

15
16 29. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the
17 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on the
18 notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification
19 comprise the following:

20 computer-executable instructions for authenticating.

21
22 30. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the
23 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on the

1 notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification
2 comprise the following:

3 computer-executable instructions for inserting an advertisement into the
4 notification.

5
6 31. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the
7 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on the
8 notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification
9 comprise the following:

10 computer-executable instructions for formatting the notification for the destination
11 device.

12
13 32. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the
14 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on the
15 notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification
16 comprise the following:

17 computer-executable instructions for determining whether the user has exceeded a
18 message limit.

19
20 33. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 24, wherein the
21 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on the
22 notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification
23 comprise the following:

1 computer-executable instructions for determining the operations to perform based
2 on the category.

3
4 34. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 33, wherein the
5 computer-executable instructions for performing a set of one or more operations on the
6 notification in its internal processing format based on the category of the notification
7 further comprise the following:

8 computer-executable instructions for determining the order of operations to
9 perform based on the category.

1 35. In a network that includes at least one notification source, at least one
2 notification sink, and a notification service that facilitates notification delivery, a method
3 for delivering notifications from a notification source to a notification sink, the method
4 comprising the following:

5 an act of a listener component of the notification service receiving a notification
6 from the notification source in a network format;

7 an act of the listener component translating the notification from the network
8 format into an internal processing format used by the notification service;

9 a step for processing the notification based on a category of the notification; and

10 an act of a delivery component of the notification service receiving the processed
11 notification for delivery to the notification sink.

12
13 36. A method in accordance with Claim 35, wherein the step for processing the
14 notification based on a category of the notification comprises the following:

15 an act of determining a category of the notification; and

16 an act of performing a set of one or more operations on the notification in its
17 internal processing format based on the category of the notification.

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1 37. In a network that includes at least one notification source, at least one
2 notification sink, and a notification service that facilitates notification delivery, a method
3 for delivering notifications from a notification source to a notification sink, the method
4 comprising the following:

5 an act of the notification service receiving a notification from the notification
6 source in a network format using a listener component of one or more listener components;

7 an act of the listener component translating the notification from the network
8 format into an internal processing format used by the notification service;

9 an act of the listener component placing the notification in its internal processing
10 format into a corresponding outgoing queue;

11 an act of a routing component of one or more routing components receiving the
12 notification from the outgoing queue corresponding to the listener component at a
13 corresponding incoming queue;

14 an act of the routing component placing the notification in a corresponding
15 outgoing queue;

16 an act of determining a delivery component to route the notification to of one or
17 more delivery components; and

18 an act of the delivery component receiving the notification, the delivery component
19 configured to deliver the notification to the notification sink.

20
21 38. A method in accordance with Claim 37, wherein the act of the notification
22 service receiving a notification from the notification source in a network format using a
23 listener component of one or more listener components comprises the following:

1 an act of the listener component receiving a notification from the notification
2 source in the form of an HTTP post request.

3
4 39. A method in accordance with Claim 37, wherein the act of the notification
5 service receiving a notification from the notification source in a network format using a
6 listener component of one or more listener components comprises the following:

7 an act of the listener component receiving a notification from the notification
8 source in the form of an XML document.

9
10 40. A method in accordance with Claim 37, wherein the act of the notification
11 service receiving a notification from the notification source in a network format using a
12 listener component of one or more listener components comprises the following:

13 an act of the listener component receiving a notification from the notification
14 source in the form of an XML document within the HTTP post request.

15
16 41. A method in accordance with Claim 37, wherein the act of the notification
17 service receiving a notification from the notification source in a network format using a
18 listener component of one or more listener components comprises the following:

19 an act of the listener component receiving a notification from the notification
20 source in the form of an XML document within a SOAP request within an HTTP post
21 request.

1 42. A computer program product for use in a network that includes at least one
2 notification source, at least one notification sink, and a notification service that facilitates
3 notification delivery, the computer program product for implementing a method for
4 delivering notifications from a notification source to a notification sink, the computer
5 program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon
6 the following:

7 computer-executable instructions for detecting the receipt of a notification from the
8 notification source in a network format using a listener component of one or more listener
9 components;

10 computer-executable instructions for the listener component translating the
11 notification from the network format into an internal processing format used by the
12 notification service;

13 computer-executable instructions for the listener component placing the
14 notification in its internal processing format into a corresponding outgoing queue;

15 computer-executable instructions for a routing component of one or more routing
16 components receiving the notification from the outgoing queue corresponding to the
17 listener component at a corresponding incoming queue;

18 computer-executable instructions for the routing component placing the notification
19 in a corresponding outgoing queue;

20 computer-executable instructions for determining a delivery component to route the
21 notification to of one or more delivery components; and

22 computer-executable instructions for the delivery component receiving the
23 notification, the delivery component configured to deliver the notification to the
24 notification sink.

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43. A computer program product in accordance with Claim 42, wherein the one
or more computer-readable media are physical storage media.

1 44. In a network that includes at least one notification source, at least one
2 notification sink, and a notification service that facilitates notification delivery, a method
3 for delivering notifications from a notification source to a notification sink, the method
4 comprising the following:

5 a step for translating the notification so as to be processed by the notification
6 service in a scalable fashion;

7 a step for processing the notification in a scalable fashion; and

8 an act of the delivery component receiving the notification, the delivery component
9 configured to deliver the notification to the notification sink.
10

11 45. A method in accordance with Claim 44, wherein the step for translation the
12 notification so as to be processed by the notification service in a scalable fashion
13 comprises the following:

14 an act of the notification service receiving a notification from the notification
15 source in a network format using a listener component of one or more listener components;

16 an act of the listener component translating the notification from the network
17 format into an internal processing format used by the notification service; and

18 an act of the listener component placing the notification in its internal processing
19 format into a corresponding outgoing queue.
20

21 46. A method in accordance with Claim 44, wherein the step for processing the
22 notification in a scalable fashion comprises the following:

an act of a routing component of one or more routing components receiving the notification from the outgoing queue corresponding to the listener component at a corresponding incoming queue;

an act of the routing component determining a delivery component to route the notification to of one or more delivery components; and

an act of the routing component placing the notification in a corresponding outgoing queue.

EXHIBIT 36298001